

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAB-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 TRSE-00 /065 W
-----120338 160250Z /62

R 151430Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6100
INFO PANCANAL
USCINCSO

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PN
SUBJECT: PANAMENISTAS TO BOYCOTT ELECTIONS

REF: PANAMA 1609

1. THE PANAMENISTA PARTY, VEHICLE OF ARNULFO ARIAS, MARCH 12 ANNOUNCED IT WILL "ABSTAIN TOTALLY" FROM THE ELECTIONS FOR MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES, WHICH IT CALLED AN "ELECTROAL FARCE". THE PARTY'S MEMBERSHIP WAS ORDERED, AND ITS SYMPATHIZERS REQUESTED, NOT TO PARTICIPATE EITHER AS CANDIDATES OR AS VOTERS IN THE CURRENT ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN.

2. THE MARCH 12 DECLARATION ALSO

-- DENOUNCED THE "LOCAL DICTATOR" FOR DISRESPECT OF THE PEOPLE, IN SAYING THAT THEY ARE POLITICALLY IMMATURE AND BY FAILING TO LEGALIZE POLITICAL PARTIES AS A PRELIMINARY STEP IN THE DEMOCRATIZATION OF THE REPUBLIC:

-- EMPHASIZED THAT THE ELECTORAL PROCESS FOR CHOOSING
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REPRESENTATIVES TO THE NACR IS THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAY FOR THE CURRENT GOVERNMENT TO PERPETUATE ITS "TYRANNY;"

-- EXPRESSED HOPE FOR THE RETURN OF THE "TRUE LEADER" OF THE PANAMANIAN PEOPLE, DR. ARNULFO ARIAS; AND

-- URGED OTHER POLITICAL PARTIES TO MAKE SIMILAR

PRONOUNCEMENTS.

3. COMMENT: THE PANAMENISTAS HAVE BEEN SAYING FOR SOME TIME THAT THEY PROBABLY WOULD NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE ELECTIONS AS A PARTY, BUT HAVE ADMITTED THAT SOME OF THEIR NUMBER MIGHT WELL CAMPAIGN AS INDIVIDUALS. THE IMPACT OF THE ORDER NOT TO RUN OR VOTE REMAINS TO BE SEEN. THIS ACTION BY THE PANAMENISTAS IS LIKELY TO DIMINISH CONSIDERABLY THE INFLUENCE OF THE PARTIES IN THE ELECTION. TORRIJOS' DECISION NOT TO LEGALIZE PARTIES BEFORE THE ELECTION WAS, OF COURSE, THE BIGGEST BLOW TO THE PARTIES.
JORDEN

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Disposition History: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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Litigation Codes:
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